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10. A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 9.

11. A method for using a host cell to produce a protein, the method comprising:

- a) culturing the host cell of claim 10 under conditions for expression of the protein; and
- b) recovering the protein from cell culture.

12. A purified protein or a portion thereof obtained using the method of claim 11.

13. A composition comprising the protein of claim 12 and a pharmaceutical carrier.

14. A method for using a protein to screen a plurality of molecules to identify at least one ligand which specifically binds the protein, the method comprising:

- a) combining the protein of claim 12 with the plurality of molecules under conditions to allow specific binding; and
- b) detecting specific binding between the protein and ligand, thereby identifying a ligand which specifically binds the polypeptide.

15. A method of using a protein to prepare and purify an antibody comprising:

- a) immunizing a animal with a protein of claim 12 under conditions to elicit an antibody response;
- b) isolating animal antibodies;
- c) attaching the protein to a substrate;
- d) contacting the substrate with isolated antibodies under conditions to allow specific binding to the protein;
- e) dissociating the antibodies from the protein, thereby obtaining purified antibodies.

16. An isolated antibody which specifically binds a protein of claim 12.

17. A composition comprising an antibody of claim 16 and a labeling moiety.

18. A method for using an antibody to detect expression in a sample, the method comprising:

- a) combining the antibody of claim 16 with a sample under conditions which allow the formation of antibody:protein complexes; and
- b) detecting complex formation, wherein complex formation indicates expression of the protein in the sample.

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19. The method of claim 18 wherein complex formation is compared with standards and is diagnostic of a disorder associated with steroid-responsive tissues or pregnancy.

5        20. A method for using an antibody to immunopurify a protein comprising:  
a) attaching the antibody of claim 16 to a substrate;  
b) contacting the antibody with solution containing the protein, thereby forming an antibody:protein  
complex;  
c) dissociating the antibody:protein complex; and  
10        d) collecting the purified protein.